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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 14 | Humidity 29% Mostly cloudy Sensex 84,065 | Nifty 25,867 | Gold 1,58,998 | Silver 2,64,377 | Dollar 90.71 | Euro 107.74 | GBP 123.82

GRIM TIDINGS

On average, six to seven people end their lives in city every day with mental health issues, family conflicts, financial stress and unemployment remaining dominant triggers

PAGE 5

SCORE BOARD

Zimbabwe register dominant 8-wicket win against Oman; Scotland thwart Italy by 73 runs; South Africa cruise by Canada

PAGE 7

Did you sense something in the air this Sunday? That something was probably pollution — On Feb 8, city's AQI surpassed that of Mumbai's and this was not a glitch as several other days too we were neck and neck with polluted megacities

SHORT OF BREATH

High emissions, changing season said to be main reasons

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While cities such as Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai have recorded a dangerous level of air pollution in the past, India's IT capital is slowly but steadily on the path to join this list.

Air quality data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows that Bengaluru overtook Mumbai's pollution levels on multiple occasions over the last couple of weeks. The daily Air Quality Index recorded by CPCB shows that on February 8 (Sunday), Bengaluru's AQI surpassed Mumbai's. While the country's financial capital recorded an AQI of 117, its IT capital recorded an AQI of 124.

Bengaluru's air pollution was also found to be neck and neck with other highly polluted cities, such as Chennai, Greater Noida, and Kolkata. Notably, February 8 was not the only day with this anomaly. Bengaluru's AQI was found to be higher than Mumbai's on January 24, January 28, and January 29 as well.

City-based researchers say that while Bengaluru's AQI matches that of highly polluted megacities in the country is mainly due to the transition from winter to summer.

"The increase in pollution could also be attributed to large-scale meteorological phenomena such as low planetary boundary layer, which is the shrinking of the breathable air zone, concentrating pollutants. Reduced wind speeds might be preventing the dispersion of urban pollution

— Anirban Banerjee, Senior Associate, CSTEP

While the city typically enjoys much better AQI in winters compared with other Indian megacities due to its geographical location (high altitude creates faster surface winds that disperse pollutants), pollution levels during summer months are as bad as any other city in the country. "Unlike Bengaluru, AQI in other cities is highly affected

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Rain or shine, wait outside

Dreams of AC shelters aside, Bengaluru barely has a few fully functional bus shelters

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Namma Bengaluru had the privilege of having the first-of-its-kind air-conditioned bus shelter in the country. The air-conditioned bus shelter that was launched in December 2008 has already become history due to civic negligence.

As for the ordinary bus shelters in the city, there is really nothing to crow about. While some of the bus shelters have become defunct or are underutilised, others are in a pathetic condition. As garbage bins are placed near the bus shelters, a few of the shelters have become converted into garbage transfer stations. For example, BMTC commuters have to wait at the bus shelter at Maruthi Nagar near Malleshpalya whenever conservancy workers clear garbage from the two bins placed on both sides of the bus shelter. And the garbage is dumped into the bins by roadside eateries that operate at night.

Another bus shelter at Malleshpalya has been converted into a dumping place. The hapless BMTC commuters have to wait for the bus away from the designated bus shelter. There is no bus shelter at KR Puram Bus Stand for the benefit of hundreds of commuters. The entire bus stand looks like a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Walk the talk

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce is organising the 2nd edition of its walkathon, inviting all to put their best foot forward for a morning of health, heart and high-level networking.
Where: Cubbon Park;
When: February 14, 8 am

02 Music beyond language

Vocalist and songwriter Violetta Parisini, known for creating music that speaks across language through vulnerability, lyricism and depth, will be performing live with her band.
Where: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield;
When: February 13 and 14, 9.30 pm

03 For the gal pals

Atta Galatta is bringing a Galentine's celebration designed exclusively for women, moving beyond the clichés to celebrate stories, secrets and sisterhood through a daylong lineup of curated fun.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: February 14, 10 am to 9 pm

04 Chartbuster tunes

Faheem Abdullah, the Kashmiri singer-songwriter behind deeply resonant tracks like Saiyaara, Ishq, Ehsaas, and Sajde, whose music has quietly become the soundtrack to longing, love, and introspection for a new generation, is set to perform in a Valentine's Day concert.
Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru;
When: February 14, 7.30 pm

05 Theatrical alchemy

The 12th Attakkalari India Biennial, in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore presents LONO - The Woman With Two Navels by acclaimed German choreographer Sara Angius, bringing together contemporary dance, puppet theatre and illusion on stage to create a liminal theatrical experience.
Where: Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur;
When: February 11, 7.30 pm

Visitor-friendly changes ahead at Vidhana Soudha?

Amidst calls for battery-powered vehicles to ease transport and demands for better lavatory facilities for visitors, installation of temporary toilets gets approved, signalling upgrades ahead

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KAUSHIK JN

Battery-operated vehicles would aid senior citizens and persons with disabilities, making it easier for them to navigate the expansive Vidhana Soudha premises

Syed Sameen of Jana Sadbhavana Organisation says proposal to purchase battery-operated vehicles is currently under consideration by higher authorities

Authorities may soon introduce battery-operated vehicles at Vidhana Soudha to assist senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwDs), easing access to the seat of power for those who may find it difficult to navigate the premises.

A proposal to introduce battery-operated vehicles at Vidhana Soudha was first mooted over a decade ago but never moved beyond paper. In March 2012, the Karnataka Legislative Council purchased two such vehicles, which were used by members to commute between the Legislators' Home and the State Secretariat.

As of now, no battery-operated vehicles are in service for the benefit of Legislative Council members. "Those vehicles became defunct after a few years. The authorities did not replace the defunct cars with new vehicles for the benefit of senior members of the Assembly and Council," said a senior employee of Vidhana Soudha.

Echoing similar concerns, Syed Sameen of the Jana Sadbhavana Organisation said he has been meeting authorities since last September to press for battery-operated vehicles to aid senior citizens and persons with disabilities, who are currently compelled to walk from the main gate to the entrance of Vidhana Soudha. "It will help more than 100 PwDs working at Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha. The authorities told me that the proposal for purchasing battery-operated vehicles was sent to the higher authorities. I want the authorities concerned to approve the proposal for the benefit of not only visitors but also PwDs working here," said Sameen.

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, MP Prashanth Kumar, Undersecretary, Karnataka Assembly Secretariat, wrote a letter on September 19, 2025, to the Undersecretary, DPAR, urging suitable measures to provide battery-operated vehicles for the benefit of senior citizens, visually-challenged, and PwDs who visit Vidhana Soudha. Kumar, in the letter, also emphasised the need for construction of two toilets, one each at Gate No 1 and Gate No 4.

At times, visitors have been forced to wait in long queues at the pass-issuing counter. "It will be a great help for those who wait in a long queue to get passes to enter Vidhana Soudha if the authorities provide mobile toilet cabins," said a visitor at Vidhana Soudha.

Assistant Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Vidhana Soudha, wrote a letter to the Executive Engineer, PWD, Bengaluru, on January 9, 2026, informing him about the decision taken to provide two temporary toilet cabins — at Gate No 1 and Gate No 2 — for the benefit of visitors.

Guidelines issued for FIRs over social media posts

The Karnataka Police Chief has issued a detailed circular directing officers across the state to exercise caution and conduct preliminary verification before registering FIRs based on social media posts, following recent Supreme Court rulings aimed at protecting free speech and preventing misuse of criminal law.

In a circular dated February 7, 2026, the Office of the Director General and Inspector General of Police MA Saleem instructed all units to avoid mechanical registration of cases without examining whether the complaint meets legal requirements. The move comes in compliance with the apex court's judgement in State of Telangana vs Nalla Balu and earlier directions in Imran Pratapgarhi vs State of Gujarat.

As per the guidelines, police have been told to first verify the complainant's locus standi, ensuring only an aggrieved person can initiate defamation-related complaints. For cognisable offences, officers must conduct a preliminary enquiry to confirm whether the essential ingredients of the offence are made out before registering an FIR.

The circular also sets a high threshold for cases involving online speech, stating that offences such as promoting enmity or public mischief must show clear incitement to violence or public disorder. Critical political speech alone cannot attract criminal action, reaffirming constitutional protections under Article 19(1)(a).

Defamation, being non-cognisable, cannot be directly registered by police and must be taken before a Magistrate. Officers have also been warned against automatic arrests and directed to seek legal opinion in sensitive matters. The department said frivolous or motivated complaints must be closed at the preliminary stage to prevent misuse of the law. **-BMB**

'Nali-Kali' programme may soon be scrapped

The state education department is considering discontinuing the 'Nali-Kali' learning programme in government schools from the 2026-27 academic year, citing increased workload on teachers and the scheme's failure to deliver expected learning outcomes. Implemented across nearly 29,000 government schools, the activity-based learning model was introduced to improve foundational learning for Classes 1 to 3 through games and interactive methods. However, teacher associations argue that the system has added pressure by requiring a single teacher to handle multiple classes, while inadequate training for guest teachers and lack of infrastructure have limited its effectiveness. The department, after reviewing the pros and cons, is preparing to withdraw the scheme. While government-level discussions are ongoing and a final decision is awaited, the Kannada Development Authority has opposed the move, stating that Nali-Kali has helped improve learning levels. **-BMB**

Lost luggage with valuables retreived

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) at Yelahanka Railway Station swiftly recovered and returned a passenger's lost trolley bag containing valuables worth nearly Rs 19 lakh, demonstrating prompt action and vigilance on Sunday evening.

At around 8.35 pm on February 8, 2026, RPF personnel received a complaint through Rail Madad regarding a missing trolley bag. Acting immediately, the RPF staff conducted a thorough search, located the unclaimed trolley bag and secured it at the RPF Post.

The complainant, identified as Kruthika, informed officials that she had travelled with her parents to New Delhi to attend a family wedding and had accidentally left the bag while boarding. After verifying her identity, officials confirmed the contents, including gold valued at Rs 17 lakh and cash. Following due procedures, the bag was handed over to the rightful owner. **-BMB**

Strict law to crack down on encroachment

The state government is preparing to introduce a strong new law to protect land and buildings belonging to thousands of government schools, address long-standing record discrepancies and take strict action against encroachers. Even today, properties of many primary and secondary schools are not officially registered in the name of the School Education and Literacy Department, leaving donated lands and decades-old school sites recorded under donors' names or revenue department records. This legal gap has created hurdles in undertaking development works and utilising government grants, including MLA funds. A senior official said, "To resolve this, the government plans to bring in the Karnataka School Education Property Protection Bill, which will treat encroachment of school property as a criminal offence and empower the department to reclaim such assets through stringent legal action." **-BMB**

Police nab gold-diggers on the prowl

Robbers, burglars, chain-snatchers caught and gold, cash worth lakhs recovered

Govindpur police have arrested two persons in connection with a house robbery and recovered stolen property worth ₹7.44 lakh, including gold ornaments, cash, mobile phones and a two-wheeler used in the crime.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mohammed Shabaz(24) and Suraj (40). According to police, the robbery happened when the complainant was out on January 27, and his wife was alone at home. Three men allegedly barged into the house, assaulted the occupants with weapons and looted 48.06 grams of gold ornaments and ₹4 lakh in cash.

Seized items displayed during a press meet at the Police Commissioner's office, on Monday

Serial house thief arrested

Baiyappanahalli police have arrested a habitual night-time house burglar who had allegedly been involved in a series of house break-in cases over the past five years. The police recovered stolen property worth ₹1.84 crore from his possession, including 1 kg 232 grams of gold jewellery, a two-wheeler and a mobile phone.

The accused was identified as Abbigere Raja (43). The arrest follows a house break-in reported on April18, 2025, by a resident of NGEF Layout in Sadananda Nagar, when the family had travelled to their home town.

5 men arrested for armed robbery at jewellery store

Madanayakanahalli police have arrested five out-of-state men in connection with an armed robbery at a jewellery shop in Dasanapura village and recovered gold ornaments, a pistol and other items worth ₹2.5 lakh.

The arrested accused has been identified as Ankit (30), Anop Signh (30), Ravi Rao (28), Anoop Ram (23), Arun (31). The complaint was filed by the owner of a Jewellers on January 27. According to police, two children were present at the shop when one accused entered pretending to check earring models on a mobile phone. While they were engaged in conversation, another man barged in and threatened them with a pistol. A third accomplice allegedly stole gold earrings, anklets, gold-thread beads and ₹50,000 in cash before fleeing.

During the investigation, police recovered a mobile phone left behind by the accused, which led to the first arrest near Kothanur on February 1.

2 held for chain snatching near temple

Hebbal police have arrested two men in connection with a chain-snatching on the pretext of enquiring about renting a house. Police officials recovered 64.66 grams of stolen gold ornaments along with the two-wheeler used in the crime. The seized property is valued at ₹9.24 lakh.

According to police, the complainant, a resident of the area, filed a complaint on January 28 stating that she was standing outside her house with her granddaughter on the evening of January 27 when two unidentified men approached her on a bike. Pretending to enquire about house rent, the duo suddenly snatched her 58.43-gram gold necklace and sped away. **–BMB**

CRIME FILES

Lokayukta traps BESCOM executive engineer

The Karnataka Lokayukta Police trapped and arrested a BESCOM Executive Engineer on Monday for allegedly accepting a ₹3 lakh bribe. The accused, Rajesh KV, Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the E-11 Division, BESCOM, Indiranagar, had allegedly demanded ₹7 lakh from complainant Dileep SN, an electrical contractor. The bribe was sought to clear pending work related to reactivating electricity meters and sanctioning a new 24 KW power connection for the contractor's client. Following negotiations, the demand was allegedly reduced to ₹3 lakh as part payment. Acting on the complaint, Lokayukta police registered a case under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), laid a trap, and caught the officer red-handed. **–BMB**

Vendor robbed at knifepoint

A 65-year-old flower vendor was allegedly held at knifepoint and robbed of ₹10,000 by two unidentified men in the early hours of Friday near Agrahara Dasarahalli, under the jurisdiction of the Magadi Road police station.

The victim, Siddamadu, and his wife sell flowers from a pushcart. According to the police, two men intercepted Siddamadu and threatened him with a knife when was on his way to the City Market to get flowers around 4 am. The men forcefully took ₹10,000 from his pocket and fled the spot. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera. **–BMB**

Death after chain snatching

A 45-year-old woman died under suspicious circumstances outside her home at Huskur, within the Madanayakanahalli limits, on Monday, prompting an investigation. The woman, Jyothi, had stepped out of her house when two men on a motorcycle allegedly attempted to snatch her 70-gram gold mangalya chain. Police said she resisted, following which the men pulled the chain and pushed her to the ground before fleeing. Jyothi reportedly collapsed soon after and was rushed to a hospital in Nelamangala, where doctors declared her brought dead. **–BMB**

Balloon in KIA airspace creates flutter

A brief security scare was reported near Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on January 5 after an unauthorised balloon was spotted flying in restricted airspace, triggering swift action by airport security teams. According to a complaint filed at the BIAL police station on January 8, the incident occurred at around 11.39 am within the airport's operational area. Personnel from the Airport Security Group and the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, who were on routine surveillance, noticed a balloon carrying the name BCD Construction moving illegally over the premises.

Security personnel immediately intercepted and stopped the object Preliminary verification revealed that the balloon had entered a Red Zone or No-Flying area. **–BMB**

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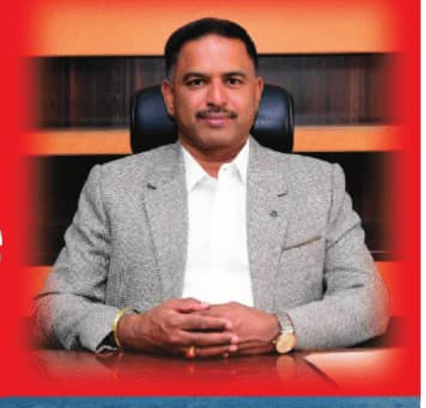

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Treated water supply to Peenya Industries gets green signal

Dedicated network targets non-potable demand, conserving freshwater through infrastructure-led sustainability transition across industries

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BWSSB infrastructure work underway to route reclaimed water to factories in Peenya Industrial Area

BWSSB's Peenya project will replace drinking water with treated wastewater for industrial use, improving Bengaluru's long-term water security

In a major step towards sustainable water management, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has initiated preparations to supply treated water to the Peenya Industrial Area, one of the largest industrial hubs in Asia. The move aims to conserve drinking water and promote large-scale reuse of treated wastewater. The decision follows the severe drinking water crisis that hit Bengaluru in 2024, prompting the government to explore alternatives for non-potable water use in industrial zones.

A BWSSB official said, "As part of this effort, BWSSB submitted a proposal seeking approval to supply 4 MLD of treated water to Peenya, which has now received government clearance. With approvals in place, the board has begun groundwork to ensure that the treated water supply begins by April. At present, BWSSB operates 34 sewage treatment plants across the city, collectively treating about 1,348 MLD of wastewater every day. A significant portion of this treated water is already being reused to fill lakes such as Jakkur, Yelahanka, Agara and Hulimavu, and the board now plans to further expand reuse by supplying industries for non-drinking purposes." Officials say this initiative will not only reduce pressure on potable water sources but also establish a long-term model for responsible water usage in urban industrial zones.

Project Execution

The treated water supply project for Peenya will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs 20 crore. Under the plan, a sump and pump house will be constructed near NTTF in the Peenya Industrial Area, along with an overhead water tank of 500,000-litre capacity. Treated water will be transported through a dedicated pipeline from the Nagasandra sewage treatment plant, located around 4.5 km away.

"From the storage facility, a separate high-density pipeline network will distribute water exclusively for industrial use. The treated water will be sourced from a 40 MLD advanced treatment plant and will meet high-quality standards suitable for cleaning, sanitation and other non-production activities. Peenya has around 25,049 industries connected to BWSSB, and in the first phase, nearly 500 industries have agreed to shift to treated water usage," said an official, adding that a substantial amount of water in industrial areas is currently used for floor cleaning, toilets and general maintenance, and replacing drinking water with treated water for these purposes will result in significant savings.

Apart from conserving freshwater, industries are also expected to benefit from reduced water costs. "We believe that the Peenya project will serve as a pilot for similar initiatives in other industrial clusters across Bengaluru, strengthening the city's overall water security while ensuring optimal reuse of treated wastewater," added the BWSSB official.

Life-saving ambulances hit Mahadevapura streets

Mahadevapura Task Force and BJP RWA Mahadevapura, in association with Kauvery Hospital, Marathahalli, and Rashtrotthana Blood Centre, organised Ayushmaan Bhava, a seva yagna dedicated to health and longevity. It is an integrated mission for emergency response and community care.

"We are launching five free ambulances provided by Kauvery Hospital. These are strategically positioned across Mahadevapura to ensure that life-saving medical aid reaches residents within those critical first minutes. We provide free advanced health diagnostic tests and distribute privilege cards from Kauvery Hospital to ensure that quality healthcare remains both accessible and affordable for all. A mega blood donation drive, in collaboration with Rashtrotthana Blood Centre, will support those in critical need," said Amaresh Lakshminarayana, general secretary of Mahadevapura Task Force.

He said that he was very pleased to share that over 500 RWA members registered online for the health camp, and more than 50 donors registered online for the blood donation camp. He added that five free neighbourhood ambulances are expected to cover Kundalahalli, AECS Layout, Balagere Road, Gunjur, and Varthur. "These ambulances will be stationed at Sobha Dream Acres, Candeur Signature, Brigade Cornerstone Utopia, Purva Fountain Square, and AECS Layout. Free diagnostic tests, including TSH, serum creatinine, CBC, spirometry, audiometry, chest X-ray, ECG, BP, and RBS, were provided to a total of 321 beneficiaries," he said.

He stated that, with the support of MLA Manjula Aravind Limbavali and former minister Aravind Limbavali, the Mahadevapura Task Force has already successfully deployed four ambulances in Bellandur, Harlur, Kasavanahalli, and Sarjapur Road in collaboration with Manipal Hospital. "These ambulances are already saving lives every single day," he added, emphasising that there are plans to add more ambulances in other areas of Mahadevapura in the future.

Welcoming the launch of the ambulances, Prabhu Patil, president of Rohan Vasantha Apartment Owners Association, said that placing ambulances at strategic locations will be a great help for patients who need medical care.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – "Mahadevapura constituency gets new ambulance services" – on June 30, 2025, narrating how two ambulances provide first aid and transport patients to the nearest hospitals.

–BMB

No lifts on busy footbridge

Pedestrians are facing difficulties at the newly constructed foot overbridge in front of the KR Puram Traffic Police Station on National Highway 75, as it has been built without a lift facility. The area houses a sub-registrar's office, government schools and colleges, and sees the daily movement of thousands of people. With heavy traffic on the national highway, crossing the road at ground level is risky, yet the absence of lifts has forced many pedestrians to avoid the overbridge and navigate through congested traffic, exposing themselves to danger.

The situation has been particularly challenging for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and others with limited mobility, for whom the foot overbridge has become largely unusable. Residents point out that, despite the bridge being constructed, it has failed to serve its purpose fully, and have urged the highway authority to urgently provide lift facilities to ensure safe and accessible road crossings for all.

–BMB

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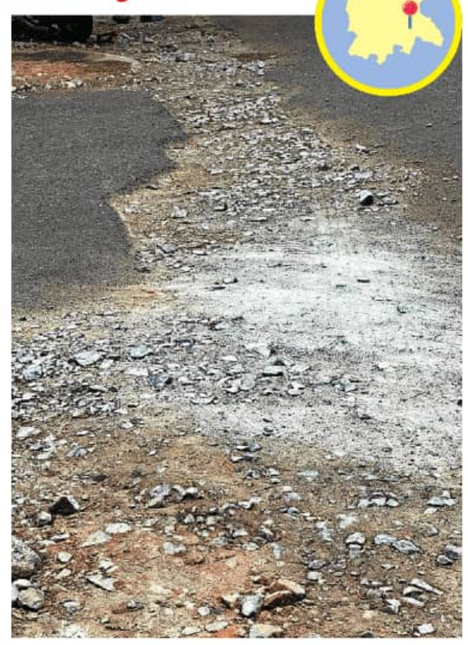
Neglected streets
HSR Layout



Untarred stretches on 12th Main and 21st Cross in HSR Layout's 7th Sector have been left unattended for nearly two years following BWSSB cable work, despite repeated complaints from residents.

Chronic neglect
Seshadripuram

Garbage and debris have been dumped along 1st Main Road leading to 3rd Cross in Annayappa Block, piling up for over two years despite multiple complaints and the absence of regular clean-ups.

Plastic threat
Kakolu

Plastic waste continues to accumulate unchecked in Kakolu Lake in north Bengaluru, raising serious environmental concerns.

HD Revanna case: Trial court can proceed with framing charges

The Karnataka High Court has set aside its earlier interim order that had restrained the trial court from framing charges against JD(S) leader HD Revanna in a kidnapping case.

The decision followed repeated adjournment requests by Revanna's counsel, prompting the court to question the petitioner's readiness to proceed. Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav observed that despite clear directions to be prepared, the petitioner sought further delay, including citing senior counsel's unavailability. The court held such adjournment pleas inappropriate before a court of record and vacated the interim protection.

With the stay lifted, the trial court can proceed with framing charges. The case will be heard next on February 26. **BMB**

Accident victim can't claim compensation on borrowed vehicle

HIGH COURT

The High Court has ruled that legal heirs of a person who died while riding a borrowed vehicle cannot seek compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act against the owner or insurer if the deceased was not a true third party.

The ruling arose from a case a 2014 accident in Belagavi. Prakash Baburao Chigare was returning home on a motorcycle when he was hit by a vehicle and later died. His family claimed he earned Rs 40,000 and sought compensation from the insurer of the motorcycle, which he had borrowed.

The insurer opposed the claim, noting he lacked a valid driving licence and had stepped into the owner's shoes, making a Section 163-A claim untenable. **BMB**

Courts should not order DNA test to check paternity

The Karnataka High Court has reiterated that DNA tests to establish a child's paternity should not be ordered routinely in matrimonial disputes. Such directions are justified only in exceptional situations where truth cannot be determined through other evidence. The ruling came while dismissing a husband's plea seeking a DNA test of his one-year-old child during maintenance proceedings. The court noted that the petitioner admitted the marriage and cohabitation, creating a legal presumption of paternity that cannot be displaced. It stressed that DNA testing raises serious concerns of privacy, and the child's best interests. Upholding the family court order, maintenance claims cannot stall proceedings. **BMB**

Every few hours, suicide claims a life in Bengaluru

Data shows Bengaluru losing more than two thousand lives annually to suicide highlighting persistent psychosocial pressures inadequate prevention systems mental health responses

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Bengaluru has reported 9,450 suicides over the last four years, translating to one person dying by suicide roughly every three and a half hours. Data from the Home Department shows that between January 2022 and November 2025, the city continued to witness alarmingly steady numbers, with more than 2,000 lives lost every year.

On an average, six to seven people end their lives in the city every day. Mental health issues, family conflicts, financial stress and unemployment remain the dominant triggers, with young adults forming a significant share of the victims.

Yearly trend

A year-wise breakup shows only marginal fluctuations, indicating that the problem remains persistent rather than episodic. In 2022, Bengaluru reported 2,370 suicides. The number dipped slightly in 2023 to 2,313, a decline of 57 cases or about 2.4 percent.

However, 2024 saw a rise to 2,403 cases, an increase of 90 deaths or nearly 3.9 percent compared to the previous year. In 2025, up to the end of November, the city has already recorded 2,364 suicides, almost matching the previous year's full figure, suggesting that the annual total is likely to remain above the 2,300 mark.

Overall, the four-year period reflects stability at a high level rather than any sustained reduction.

Methods used

Hanging remains the most common method, accounting for 8,148 deaths, or over 86 percent of all reported suicides. Poison consumption led to 740 deaths, while 204 people died after jumping from buildings or other elevated structures.

Other methods included stepping in front of trains and use of firearms. Experts point out that the availability of means and impulsive decision-making often play a crucial role, especially during periods of acute emotional distress.

Mental health link

According to analysis by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, nearly one-third of those who die by suicide suffer from diagnosed mental illnesses. The remaining two-thirds are largely driven by psychosocial stressors such as financial difficulties, relationship breakdowns and family disputes. NIMHANS psychiatrists note that emotional overload, academic pressure, economic instability and adolescent challenges frequently push individuals towards suicidal thoughts.

Helpline support

To address the growing mental health burden, NIMHANS operates the Tele Manas helpline at 14416. The service receives calls from individuals experiencing suicidal ideation and provides immediate counselling and referral support. Psychiatrists said that intense emotional distress combined with psychosocial problems often leads to suicidal behaviour, adding that earlier, access to lethal means was relatively limited.

If you or someone you know is struggling, reaching out for help can make a critical difference.

Citywide crackdown: Drugs worth ₹8.19 crore seized

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, the City Crime Branch (CCB) arrested 24 individuals for allegedly peddling banned narcotic substances across Bengaluru and seized contraband worth an estimated ₹2.08 crore. The arrests come amid the Bengaluru City Police's intensified anti-drug campaign, which has led to narcotics seizures worth ₹8.19 crore over the past 38 days.

The coordinated operation was carried out by the CCB's Narcotics Control Wing and Organised Crime Wing based on specific intelligence inputs. Police said the accused were operating within the limits of several police stations, including Kumaraswamy Layout, Hebbal, JC Nagar, Basavanagudi, Govindarajanagar, and Chamarajpet. During the operation, officers seized 1 kg 23 grams of hashish, 76 kg of ganja, 11 kg 600 grams of charas, and 121 grams of MDMA. The total value of the seized contraband is estimated at ₹2.08 crore.

Investigations revealed that some of the accused, including individuals from outside the state, allegedly procured drugs from unidentified suppliers and sold them locally, targeting college students and IT/BT employees for quick profits. Police have launched a manhunt to trace the main suppliers and dismantle the larger network.

According to police officials, between January 1 and February 7, 2026, widespread checks were conducted across the city. Travel agencies, parcel services, and commercial establishments were also inspected to prevent misuse for narcotics storage or transport.

The sustained drive resulted in 109 cases against drug peddlers with 179 arrests, and 839 cases against consumers, leading to the arrest of 1,038 individuals. Police seized 278.35 kg of ganja, 8.918 kg of hydro ganja, 2.493 kg of synthetic drugs, along with 509 tablets and 38 strips of banned substances. The total value of narcotics seized during the period is estimated at ₹8.19 crore.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance approach, police said intelligence-led operations will continue.

Citizens have been urged to report drug-related activities by calling 1908 or 112, or contacting the nearest police station. **BMB**

Man dies after allergy treatment at Gudibande govt hospital, probe ordered

A 50-year-old man, who had visited Gudibande Government Hospital for treatment of a minor allergic reaction, died shortly after being given an injection, sparking anger among his family and local residents on Monday.

The deceased, Krishna Reddy, a resident of Bommanahalli village, had reportedly developed a mild allergy after consuming natural honey. Officials said he had gone to the hospital on his own and was in a stable condition when he sought medical assistance.

According to preliminary reports, the duty doctor administered an injection to control the allergic reaction. However, within seconds of receiving the dose, Krishna Reddy allegedly collapsed inside the hospital premises. Despite efforts, he could not be revived and was declared dead on the spot.

The sudden death sparked protests outside the hospital, with relatives alleging medical negligence. Family members questioned how a person who had walked in a conscious and stable condition died immediately after treatment, demanding accountability from the hospital staff.

Medical experts indicated that the death may have been caused by anaphylactic shock, which is a severe and rapid allergic reaction, but said only a post-mortem and detailed investigation can confirm whether it was triggered by the honey or the medication administered.

Officials have ordered an inquiry into the incident, and further action will be taken based on the findings. **BMB**

K'taka hosts global wildlife leaders for intensive tiger conservation training

Senior officials from twenty-three countries attend a five-day executive programme across Bandipur and Nagarahole tiger reserves focused on conservation practices

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The programme highlights Karnataka's success in safeguarding tigers, elephants and leopards through long-term corridor protection and community engagement strategies

State showcases globally recognised forest management as international policymakers, managers and conservation practitioners study corridor protection, conflict mitigation, and community engagement through field sessions in premier tiger landscapes of India

International Big Cat Alliance, in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), is organising a five-day executive course on wildlife conservation and management practices.

The field-based programme, being held in Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves from Monday (January 9), is being attended by 39 senior officials from 23 countries across the globe, including policymakers, field managers and conservation practitioners. The participating countries include Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Congo, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Panama, Peru, Romania, Russia, Somalia and Sri Lanka.

According to a press note released by the Karnataka Forest Department during the launch of the course on February 8, Karnataka was chosen as the host state for the second Executive Course to showcase its leadership and achievements in biodiversity conservation and wildlife management. The department highlighted the state's globally recognised efforts in the protection and conservation of tigers, leopards and elephants.

Karnataka currently has the highest population of Asian elephants in the country, with 6,013 individuals, and the second-highest number of tigers at 563. It is also among the top states in terms of leopard population, with 1,879 leopards recorded.

Officials noted that the state has demonstrated significant progress in landscape-level planning, legal notification of wildlife corridors, protected area management, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict and community engagement initiatives. As part of the course curriculum, participants will take part in field-based sessions at Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves, where they will be exposed to best management practices followed in tiger reserves and other protected areas, strengthening international collaboration, capacity building, knowledge exchange and long-term conservation partnerships across participating nations.

Nagarahole's rail barrier project gains momentum

To curb incidents of wild elephant intrusions into human settlements, the forest department has been installing railway barricades made of rail poles across Nagarahole National Park, with nearly 100 km completed over the past decade. The Karnataka government has now sanctioned ₹11.65 crore to extend the project further. Nagarahole was the first protected area in the country to adopt railway barricades as a mitigation measure, and conservationists say the project's continuation itself reflects long-term commitment, despite slower-than-expected progress.

The department had planned a total of 257.8 km of railway barricades within the park, of which about 50% has been achieved so far. The initiative began in 2015–16 with a 2 km pilot stretch in the Veerana Hosahalli range. Since then, roughly 125 km of rail poles have been installed. From 2025, tenders have been finalised for 13.65 km out of a proposed 20 km, and work is expected to commence shortly.

Buffer zone inclusion delays key barricade stretches. **–BMB**

Excise revenue lifts state exchequer

Karnataka's latest fiscal data resents a mixed but cautiously optimistic picture, with excise revenue emerging as a key pillar of the state's finances. A review of receipts and expenditure up to December 2025 shows that the state's own tax revenue grew by 8.67% year-on-year, driven largely by strong collections from commercial taxes and the Excise Department.

The Excise Department, in particular, has outperformed expectations. Against an annual target of Rs 40,000 crore, it had already mobilised ₹29,905.58 crore by the end of December, achieving 74.76% of the target. This represents a robust 12.55% growth compared to the same period last year, underlining excise as a major support to the state exchequer.

Karnataka has also benefited from higher devolution from the Centre, receiving Rs 37,861.89 crore as its share of central taxes by December. This accounts for 72.98% of the annual target and reflects a healthy 15.20% increase over the previous year. **–BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Hampi Utsav lights up skies with dazzling drone history show

A 1,000-drone night spectacle will retell Vijayanagara history, transforming the iconic ruins of Hampi into a living canvas

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The Hampi Utsav is set to blend heritage with high-end technology this year, as a grand drone show recreates the splendour of the Vijayanagara Empire in the night sky. Scheduled to be held from February 13 to 15, the festival promises a fresh visual experience for visitors, with a 1,000-drone light and animation show emerging as its main attraction. Inspired by the hugely popular drone display at Mysuru Dasara, the initiative aims to narrate Hampi's rich history in a format that resonates with modern audiences.

Every year, lakhs of tourists from across the country and abroad flock to Hampi to witness its timeless monuments and cultural vibrancy. This time, the celebration goes a step further by turning the sky itself into a vast storytelling canvas. While helicopter rides will offer aerial views of the heritage site during the day, the evenings will belong to drones that illuminate the darkness with moving images of history, architecture and royalty.

Officials said the show has been designed not merely as entertainment but as a strong visual narrative tracing the Vijayanagara Empire's rise, glory and legacy. The drone display, to be held near the Gayatri Peetha main stage, will chronicle key phases of the empire, from its foundation to its golden era, offering viewers a sweeping historical perspective.

Drone visuals recreating temples and royal symbols aim to help visitors connect Hampi's ruins with the empire's rise, glory and legacy

Larger-than-life aerial images of iconic rulers such as Harihara, Bukka Raya and Krishnadevaraya are expected to appear in the sky, along with animated depictions of major political events, diplomatic milestones and historic battles. The choreography of lights and movement is intended to create a sense of awe among spectators, making history feel immersive and alive rather than distant and static.

Adding to the spectacle, some of Hampi's most recognisable monuments will be recreated as glowing outlines against the night sky. These include the Stone Chariot, the towering Virupaksha Temple gopuram, Ugra Narasimha, Lotus Mahal, Queen's Bath, Mahanavami Dibba and the Vittala Temple complex. Officials said the visuals would help visitors connect individual monuments to the larger story of the empire, providing context often missed during routine sightseeing.

The initiative also reflects a conscious effort to engage younger audiences who are more attuned to digital and visual storytelling. An official said presenting Hampi's history through technology would make it more relatable and memorable, while reinforcing its importance as a symbol of cultural pride.

Vijayanagara Deputy Commissioner Kavita S Mannikeri said preparations for the festival were being carried out meticulously. She noted this was the first time a drone show was being introduced at the Hampi Utsav and expressed confidence that it would become the highlight of the celebrations, drawing greater attention to the historic city.

Classy Bennet, lethal bowlers help Zimbabwe get eight-wicket win over Oman

ALL-AROUND EXCELLENCE POWERS ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's captain Sikandar Raza, right, Brian Bennett, left, celebrate after winning their T20 World Cup cricket match against Oman in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Monday

Zimbabwe 106/2 (13.3)

Oman 103 (19.5)

The highly rated Brian Bennett showed his class on the big stage with an unbeaten 36-ball 48 to complement the bowlers' excellent display and power Zimbabwe to an eight-wicket win over Oman in their T20 World Cup match on Monday.

Opting to bowl, Blessing Muzarabani wreaked havoc with the new ball before his pace-bowling colleague Richard Ngarava joined him in the demolition job to skittle out Oman for 103.

The duo of Muzarabani (3/16 in 4 overs) and Richard Ngarava (3/17 in 4 overs) were the most successful bowlers for Zimbabwe as Oman put up an ordinary display with the bat. They were in danger of being bowled out for a much lesser total after slipping to 27 for five in the seventh over.

Pacer Brad Evans also chipped in with impressive figures of 3/18 from 3.5 overs.

Zimbabwe then made a flying start to the chase courtesy of Tadiwanashe Marumani who blazed away to 21 off 11 balls before Wasim Ali pulled off a stunning catch to dismiss the opener. Sufyan Mehmood struck again in the same over, dismissing Dion Myers for a duck.

But Bennett and experienced wicketkeeper Brendan Taylor (31 retired hurt off 30 balls) put on 68 runs for the third wicket to complete the task for Zimbabwe in just 13. 3 overs.

The 22-year-old Bennett, who came into the World Cup after enjoying the form of his life on home soil by scoring three half-centuries and a hundred to clinch Zimbabwe's place in the showpiece, continued in the same vein and showed why he is rated so highly.

Needless to say, Bennett's form will hold the key for Zimbabwe going forward in the tournament.

Taylor was not far behind as he too played some fine shots en route to an easy victory for a team that has a point to prove having missed the last edition of the tournament.

Earlier, Vinayak Shukla (28 off 21 balls), Sufyan Mehmood (25 off 39) and Nadeem Khan (20 off 18) were the significant contributors with the bat for Oman.

Opting to field after the coin landed in favour of Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza, Muzarabani struck thrice and lefty-arm seamer Richard Ngarava once to leave Oman precariously placed at 17 for four in the fourth over. —PTI

Today's matches

- Netherlands V/S Namibia — 11.00 am
- New Zealand V/S United Arab Emirates — 03.00 pm
- Pakistan V/S USA — 07.00 pm

South Africa stamp their authority against Canada

At the end of the day, a total of 213 proved to be a tall order for Canada as they lost by 57 runs to South Africa at their T20 match in Narendra Modi stadium, Ahmedabad on Monday.

South Africa's innings had it all -- a flourish at the end, a roar in the middle, and a statement throughout — as the team stamped its authority with the bat to post a commanding 213/4 after being asked to bat against Canada in Group D in the ninth match of the T20 World Cup 2026.

Aiden Markram led with a stylish 59 off 32 balls, and David Miller finished strong with an unbeaten 39 off 23. The Proteas played smoothly at the start, took charge in the middle, and went all out at the end, leaving Canada battered at every stage.

South Africa quickly took control. The Powerplay was all about Markram and Quinton de Kock, who scored 65 runs without losing a wicket in the first six overs. They didn't play wildly; they played smart. Markram found the gaps, de Kock kept the score ticking, and Canada's bowlers struggled to find their rhythm.

Extras didn't help, either, with nine runs

South Africa's Lungi Ngidi, third from right, celebrates with teammates the wicket of Canada's Yuvraj Samra

added by the time they reached 50 in 4.3 overs. Kaleem Sana and Bajwa couldn't find their lengths. The result was no wickets and no holds.

If the powerplay showed control, the middle overs were all about dominance. After drinks at 66/0, Markram shifted gears and reached a solid T20 fifty off 28 balls. Ryan Rickelton joined in, and the second-wicket partnership grew to 56 runs in just 25 balls, pushing the run rate over ten. Canada finally took some wickets when de Kock and then Markram got out, but the scoreboard read 126/2, and the damage was done.

Canada briefly saw a chance when three wickets fell between overs 11 and 14. Markram, Rickelton, and Brevis went back to the pavilion, leaving the score at 138/4. Ansh Patel bowled well during this time, using variations in pace and angles to create some uncertainty. However, without sustained pressure, it was just a brief halt.

Then came David Miller. Calm and focused, Miller teamed up with Tristan Stubbs to crush any remaining hopes for Canada. Together, they put together an unbeaten 75-run partnership, attacking the final overs with control. South Africa scored 62 runs in the last five overs, with 21 coming off the final over. Miller finished with 39 off 23, Stubbs with 34 off 19, as they reached 200 in 19.2 overs, even a slow over-rate penalty couldn't stop their momentum.

South Africa's pacers also hit the right lines and lengths on what was a difficult pitch to hide the ball from batters ensuring that Canada could cobble together just 158 runs at the loss of eight wickets. —IANS

'Getting 3 of their right-handers out was most important'

Scotland's Michael Leask bagged 4 wickets to crush debutants Italy

Scotland all-rounder Michael Leask concluded a memorable day at Eden Gardens by being named Player of the Match in his team's 73-run victory over debutants Italy during Monday's Group C match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. After the game, he acknowledged that he expects some teasing from his teammates for bowling to right-handed batters, but taking out three of their right-handers was likely the most crucial achievement.

Leask delivered a standout all-round performance, ripping through Italy's middle order with figures of 4-17, the third-best bowling figures by an associate nation bowler in Men's T20 World Cup history, and later smashed an unbeaten 22 off just five balls in the final over of Scotland's innings to propel them past the 200-run mark.

Reflecting on the win, Leask was quick to credit the collective effort behind Scotland's first victory of the tournament.

"For me, it was just the full team performance today. Look, it's been a lot of hard work coming into this tour. We obviously hadn't had the prep time, but it just shows how much dedication we've got to what we've done. Look, we trained hard and obviously I know the guys are going to give me stick by bowling at right-handers, but getting three of their right-handers out probably was the most important," Leask said in the post-match presentation.

Players of Scotland and Italy greet each other at the end of their match, at Eden Gardens, on Monday

Scotland posted a commanding 207/4 after being sent in to bat, with George Munsey's 84 laying the platform before Leask provided the late fireworks, taking 22 runs from the final over to deliver the tournament's first 200-plus total and a historic landmark for associate nations.

Discussing his late cameo with the bat, Leask explained that his approach has remained unchanged regardless of the stage or situation. Speaking of his knock, he said, "Similar to the day I played against West Indies. Look if it's in my arc, it's got to go. It's my job. It's what I've always done for this team. I wear my heart on my sleeve and I play that same way on the field. If the first ball's there, I'll try and hit it for six and today was no different."

Italy's chase never fully recovered from early wickets, and Leask ensured there was no late resistance by exploiting the conditions and sticking to plans refined after Scotland's opening match. —IANS

Dumpyard or playground? No, these are bus shelters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

playground full of dust in a rural area. "I have been appealing to the authorities and elected representatives for the last five years requesting them to construct a bus shelter. I have also told them that I would construct the bus shelter but received no response. It will be a great help for BMTC commuters if the authorities construct a bus shelter," said Ele Srinivas, a social activist.

Hundreds of people board BMTC buses on Old Madras Road, near Adarsha Junction in Halasuru. They have to wait under the sun during summer to board Hoskote and KR Puram-bound BMTC buses. Commuters who board BMTC buses on CMH Road near Adarsha Junction have been facing a lot of problems due to lack of the much-needed bus shelter. "I have been commuting on this stretch for more than two decades. The authorities concerned and elected representatives did not bother to construct bus shelters on Old Madras Road and CMH Road all these years.

The BMTC commuters have to rush to the nearby shops to take shelter during monsoon and have to wait under the sun in summer," said Chandrasekhar N, a BMTC commuter.

On Kasturba Road, there is a problem of plenty. There are several bus shelters here, but the problem is that BMTC buses stop away from the shelters thus compelling the commuters to wait on the road.

Demanding that the authorities construct bus shelters on Coles Road and MM Road, social activist Habiba Subhan said some of the bus shelters also have disappeared mysteriously. "There was a bus shelter opposite Punjab Stores on Coles Road. It was demolished but no effort was made to reconstruct the new bus shelter. Now, commuters and school children have to wait on the road to board buses," she said.

The executive engineer, traffic engineering cell was not available for comment.

Indian-Canadian shot dead in shopping centre's parking lot in Toronto

A 37-year-old Indian-Canadian died after being shot by unidentified men in the parking lot of a busy shopping centre in Toronto, Canada, police said.

In a statement on Sunday, the Toronto Police Service identified the victim as Chandan Kumar Raja Nandakumar of Brampton.

On Saturday, at approximately 3.31 pm, police responded to a call for a shooting in the parking lot of Woodbine Shopping Centre located at Rexdale Boulevard and Highway 27, the statement said.

It said police officers found a man with gunshot wounds when they arrived at the scene. The victim was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The suspect, or suspects, fled the scene in a vehicle, police said. The victim succumbed to his injuries at the hospital, they said.

Nandakumar, originally from Karnataka, was an IT professional. The shooting marks Toronto's third homicide of the year. Images taken from the scene show a white SUV with bullet holes in the windshield and a shattered window on the driver's side, according to CTV News. **PTI**

Current spike could be due to meteorological stagnation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by seasons. Currently, winter in these cities is withdrawing and so levels are going down. However, we need to shed the misconception that Bengaluru's air quality is safe. We have already touched pollution levels in other cities during summer," said Professor Gufran Beig, chair professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) and one of the researchers.

Drivers of pollution

Experts say the observed air quality in Bengaluru can be attributed to high emissions and meteorology. Bengaluru's emissions have not seen a sudden or localised increase. However, emissions due to tailpipe exhaust and road dust have increased in recent months as office commutes returned to peak levels.

Widespread construction work (metro construction, relaying older roads, etc.) also adds to the pollution burden. While all this happens throughout the year, the current spike could be due to meteorological stagnation. Moreover, the entire South India appears to be experiencing higher AQI levels, suggesting a regional pattern.

"The increase in pollution could also be attributed to large-scale meteorological phenomena such as low planetary boundary layer, which is the shrinking of the breathable air zone, concentrating pollutants. Reduced wind speeds might be preventing the dispersion of urban pollution, and shifted wind patterns may be transporting secondary pollutants from surrounding industrial belts into the city's atmosphere," said Anirban Banerjee, Senior Associate working in the Air Quality sector at Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP).

According to Banerjee, while Bengaluru's geography and current meteorological conditions are beyond our control, the emissions can be monitored and managed.

In addition to building metro-rail lines, a greater emphasis is needed on strengthening reliable, high-frequency 'last-mile' connectivity to discourage the use of private vehicles. Moreover, since road dust is a major pollutant, 'wall-to-wall' paving can help eliminate unsealed road shoulders.

"Developers should be encouraged to adhere to 'green standards', including the use of non-potable water for dust suppression and the adoption of clean construction practices at active sites. A strict, enforceable ban on garbage burning in and around the city limits is needed. Moreover, we must identify the city's most sensitive or 'choked' areas and transform them into zones that are exclusively reserved for pedestrians, cyclists, and zero-emission vehicles for public transport," added Banerjee.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, THAHSINA.S , R/a .No.4373, Near Mubral Shadi Mahal, C Rahim Compound, Bangarpet - 563114.I have Changed my name to RIHANA BANU, Vide affidavit, dated 05/02/2026 Sworn before Notary: Prakasha.C. Bangalore

I, VANIYAMBADI MANDYA MUNNAVAR AHMED (Old Name) resident at No. 18/2, S-3, Silver Manor, Kandaswamy Mudaliar Road, Near Adam Function hall, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name to VANIVAMBADI MANDYA MUNAWAR AHMED (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 6/2/2026 Before Notary Deepa.M Bagalore.

I, VINUTHA REDDY R/a #.10, 1st A Mn Rd, 13th Crs, Vignan Nagar, Malleshpalya, B'lore -75. Have changed to VINUTHA REDDY C. Vide aff dtd: 05.02.2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E., B'lore.

I Rashmi Menon Satish D/O, Satish Menon R/o Flat No. 31c/d, Polaris, Aquila Heights, Hmt Watch Factory Road, Jalahalli, Bangalore - 560 013, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Rashmi Menon.

I Shiv Prasad Honagalli Siddaiah S/O, Siddaiah.h.s R/o N0-25,unnathi,1st Cross,near Sudanikethan School, Teachers Lyt,vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097 have changed my name to Shiv Prasad.

I, RAJAN BHAGAIT, S/o BHUPENDER BHAGAIT, R/o C-305, 3RD Floor BM Magnolia Park Cedar Block Immadihalli Main Road Nagondanahalli 560066. I have changed my name to RAJAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

I Devaraja Tummanahalli Hanumantharayappa S/O, Hanumantharayappa R/o N0-12,mathrukrupa Nilaya,5th Cross,nanjamari Lyt, Sharadamba Nagar,jalahalli, Bengaluru-560013 have changed my name to Devaraj Tummanahalli Hanumantharayappa.

I L Ramesh R/o #27 Vysya Bank Colony, 34th Main Road 2nd Cross, Near Ganesha Temple, Arya Nagar, J P Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560078, have changed my name to Ramesh Lakshminarayana Setty.

I Priyanka Paramanand Biradar w/o Shamanth Davalagi Omprakash, #2068/2, 2nd Main,2nd Cross,Church Road, MCC A Block,Davangere-577004, have changed my name to Priyanka Biradar for all purpose

I Satish Kumar Narayan Menon S/O, Mechur Narayan Menon R/o Flat No. 31c/d, Polaris, Aquila Heights, Hmt Watch Factory Road, Jalahalli, Bangalore - 560 013, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Satish Menon.

I, BHARATHI PATIL R/a #.309, No.29/1, 4th Flr, RMV 2nd Stg, Hoysala Vijaya Enclave, 60 Ft Rd, Boopasandra, B'lore - 94. Have changed to BHARATHI BHOJARAJA PATIL, vide aff dtd: 07.02.2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E. B'lore.

I, JAIBUN, R/a.2308, 4th Cross, Phoolsha Mohalla Kolar-563101. I, have Changed my name to ZAIBUNNISA, Vide affidavit, dated 05/02/2026 Sworn before Notary Prakasha.C. Bangalore

I, SYED SANNAULLA, R/a.964 2nd floor 8th Main 1st Stage 2nd Block HBR Layout Bangalore-43. I, have changed my name to SYEDSANAULLA vide affidavit dated 06/02/2026 Sworn before Notary Prakasha. C. Bangalore

I Parveen Ataulla Khan W/O, Mohamed Ataulla Khan R/o K K English School Premises Gunjur Main Road, Varthur Bangalore Gunjur Main Road, Varthur, Next To Mayura Bakery have changed my name to Parveen S.

I, SAUMYA AGRAHARI Residing at Tower -1, 12th floor, Oceanus Vista, Kasavanahalli, Kasavanahalli Road Bengaluru – 560035 have changed my name to SAUOMYA AGGRAHARI vide affidavit dated: 09/02/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I Mohammed Leyakath Ali S/o Mohammed Gouse R/o 1752 Ward No 23,mujawar Mohalla Mulbagal 563131 have changed my name to Mohammed Liyakath Ali for all purposes.

I Bhaskar Sant Sharan Trivedi S/O, Sant Sharan Trivedi R/o Daisy 12a, Klassik Landmark Apartment, Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru, 560035, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Bhaskar Trivedi.

I, hitherto known as ABHIJEET ASHOK DHANAPUNE son of ASHOK NATHO DHANAPUNE residing at D-S 03, Alaya Apartments, 26 Harlur Main Rd, Ambalipura, Hsr Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ABHIJEET DHANAPUNE

I, Nayaz Baig Khader Baig S/O Khader Baig R/o Kanakanagar Near Aqsa Masjid Mv Ext Hosakote Bangalore Rural have changed my name to Nayaz Baig.

I, SHAKIR HUSAIN, S/o, Gulam Rasool, R/at #6, Ground Floor, 8th Cross, Hilal Street, Muslim Colony, K G Halli, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to SHAKIR HUSSAIN, vide affidavit dt: 09.02.2026 Notary Meer Hassan, B.lore.

I, SUDHA VENU GOPAL, #6228/164/657/137, green glen layout, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103 have changed my name to SUDHA N (SUDHA NARAYANA REDDY) vide affidavit dated: 09/02/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

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FEB: 11, 12**, 15*, 16, 21, 22* 22**, 26 MAR: 3, 8, 13, 18, 23
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
FEB: 11, 15*, 21, 22* MAR: 1*, 2, 8*, 12, 15*, 22, 22*
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
FEB: 15, 16*, 22, 23*, 30* MAR: 1, 8, 9*, 15, 16*, 22, 23*
KERALA SPECIAL/ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS
FEB: 15, 16*, 22, 23* MAR: 1, 2*, 8, 9*, 15, 16* 22, 23*, 29
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE FEB: 16, 23* MAR: 2, 9, 16, 23
SOUTH INDIA 9*/11 DAYS EX: HUBBALLI FEB: 18, MAR: 1, 1*, 10* 12, 19*, 22, 23

LOVE LOOKS DIFFERENT ON GALENTINE'S

What began as a TV joke has become a powerful reminder that love, in all its forms, deserves to be celebrated

Florida has spent 21 Valentine's Days with her husband, but her favourite celebration was one spent with a girlfriend before she got married.

They took the day off work, had massages, and went out for cocktails and a fancy dinner.

"For me, it was 10 out of 10. That whole day was intentional," said O'Sullivan. She remembers it as empowering "on a day that's usually filled with pressure to be in a relationship, or sadness because I wasn't currently in one".

Galentine's Day became a pop culture phenomenon following a 2010 episode of the TV comedy Parks and Recreation, which celebrated female friendships around Valentine's Day. Amy Poehler's character, Leslie Knope, gathered her gal pals on February 13.

"What's Galentine's Day? Oh, it's only the best day of the year," said Knope.

Honouring female friendships can happen any day of the year, of course. Whether on February 13 or another day, here are some ways to create a fun-filled experience:

Making it a party

Chela Pappaccioli of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, has been hosting a Galentine's Day bash at her home for the past three years. She hires a bartender and a DJ, and this year invited 45 of her nearest and dearest. So far, she has 34 confirmations and is assembling gift bags for her guests to take home. There are no men allowed, "unless the bartender happens to be male".

The event may be extravagant, but Pappaccioli says it is worth it.

"It's an escape to just be with your girls, be silly, do something fun and focus on the friendships you've created, enjoying each other's company," she says.

Learning how to do something new

Liz Momblanco of Berkley, Michigan, who describes herself as a "serial hobbyist", invites her friends to take classes such as cookie and cake decorating, calligraphy and stained glass.

"I enjoy learning something new and having a shared experience," said Momblanco, who has attended day retreats for women that offer activities such as floral arranging, yoga or cold plunges. Marney Wolf, who runs the retreat company Luna Wolf, says providing opportunities for art and creativity helps build community.

"It bonds you, whether it's something small or really deep. You watch these grown women almost turn childlike, with kindergarten-style reactions like, 'Oh my gosh! Good job! You're so talented!' That little lift is the easiest thing to do," she said.

Filling a Valentine's void

Wolf takes care to schedule Galentine's-themed retreats near Valentine's Day because some women do not have someone to spend February 14 with.

"I know it can be a really lonely time for people, and I think some take it for granted," she says.

Pappaccioli said a couple of divorced friends attend her party and that "even if you're married, it can be depressing because your husband may not be doing what you want, or your boyfriend may not support you in the way you expect".

"It's nice to know that you don't need that. You can still celebrate the holiday, but turn it around a little and celebrate the relationships you want to."

Creating different kinds of bonds

Galentine's Day get-togethers can forge new friendships, and spending quality time with a friend provides an opportunity to put the phone away, avoid distractions and build memories.

O'Sullivan is a social media strategist for businesses but appreciates that her best-ever Valentine's Day was spent without mobile phones.

"We could be fully present — no photos, no texts, no nothing," she says.

"So while that means there's no actual record of that day, it also means the details became a core memory."

Some celebrate Galentine's Day by simply going out for coffee or playing cards. Others might go with a group of women friends to a play or museum, or take a hike or attend a workout class.

Other ideas include thrift-store shopping, country line dancing, roller skating, karaoke, junk journaling, and getting manicures and pedicures. —AP

MIRRORLIGHTS

The science explaining why old tea towels outperform brand new ones

There's a peculiar ritual in many kitchens: reaching past the crisp, pristine tea towel hanging on the oven door to grab the threadbare, slightly greying one tucked away in a drawer. We all know the old faithful dries dishes better, even if we can't quite explain why. Counter-intuitive as it seems, the frayed towel almost always outperforms its brand-new replacement.

This isn't kitchen superstition — there's solid science behind it.

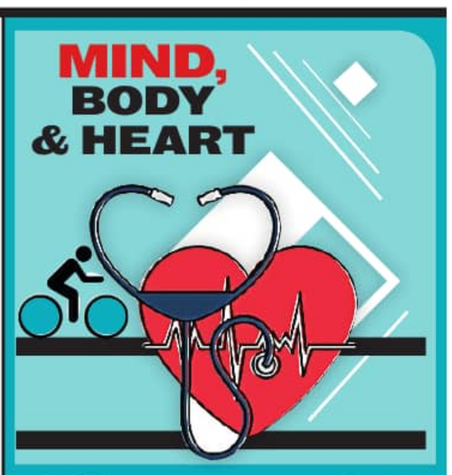
Tea towels are usually made from cotton or linen, natural cellulose fibres that are hygroscopic, meaning they attract and hold water. But absorption isn't just about fibre type. It depends on fabric structure, surface texture and the finishes applied during manufacturing.

New towels often arrive coated with silicone softeners that make them feel smooth and luxurious on shop shelves. The downside? These finishes are frequently water-resistant, preventing moisture from soaking in properly. This is why new tea towels often struggle to dry effectively straight out of the packet.

Repeated washing changes that. During manufacture, fabrics are held under tension. Laundering allows yarns to relax, a process known as relaxation shrinkage. While the towel may shrink slightly, its mass stays the same, making the fabric denser and thicker. In textured weaves like waffle cloth, this also enhances surface geometry, improving absorption.

Over time, washing and drying raise tiny fibres from the surface, creating a rougher, fluffier texture. Smooth fabrics cause water to bead up, but a roughened surface lowers the contact angle, allowing water to spread and soak in more easily.

That "worn-in" feeling we associate with old tea towels isn't nostalgia — it's performance. So before replacing your frayed favourites, remember: age, washing and wear may have turned them into exactly what they were meant to be. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Parkinson's pathway

Researchers have outlined a sequence of events that can lead to Parkinson's disease, highlighting disruptions in lipid mechanisms. A team from the US's Baylor College of Medicine and the Duncan Neurological Research Institute focused on a common Parkinson's risk gene, SPTSSB, which regulates the first steps in sphingolipid production — crucial for cell interaction, proliferation, migration, and death.

Blood samples reveal early changes

The team studied a variant of SPTSSB, rs1450522, linked to higher Parkinson's risk. Blood samples from healthy carriers showed no symptoms, such as tremors or gait issues. However, levels of the SPTSSB protein and certain sphingolipids in the blood were higher compared to non-carriers. "Out of 62 sphingolipids measured, 23 per cent were significantly altered," said Dr Joshua Shulman, professor of neurology at Baylor. Researchers also analysed metabolites in 149 Parkinson's patients and 150 healthy individuals. They found multiple lipids, including fatty acids, were lower in patients. Interestingly, healthy carriers with elevated sphingolipids also had lower levels of certain fatty acids, suggesting early biochemical changes linked to Parkinson's risk.

Evidence of a causal chain

The study confirms that Parkinson's susceptibility genes influence lipid metabolism, and disruptions may trigger brain changes leading to disease onset. "Our results identify promising biomarkers and reveal a causal chain linking genetic variation to altered protein expression, lipid dysmetabolism, and Parkinson's manifestation," the authors said.

While changes in lipid levels were modest, Shulman noted their importance in understanding disease mechanisms. "Understanding these lipid metabolic changes can guide the development of treatments to prevent or delay symptom onset," he added. —PTI

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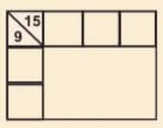
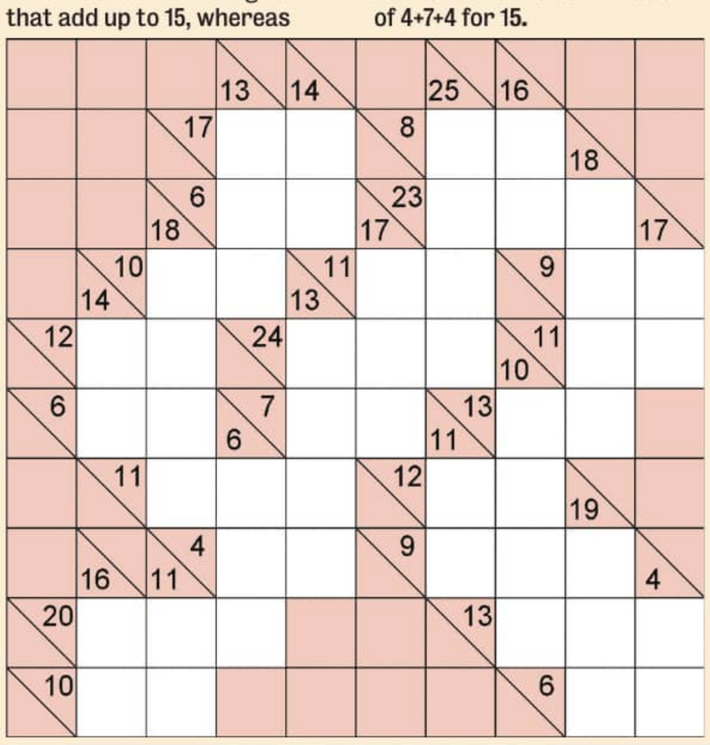
Kakuro

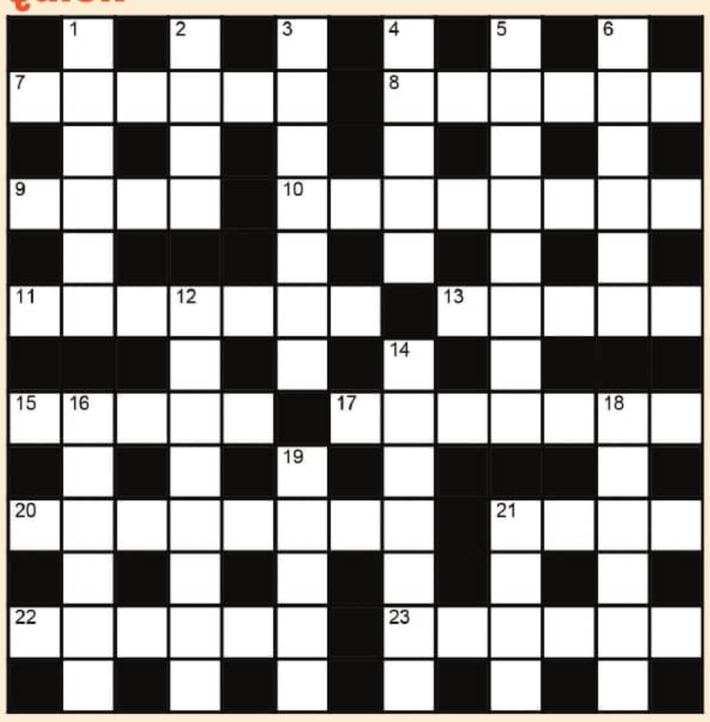
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 A former gold coin of Europe (6)
8 Tufted beard (6)
9 Small insects (4)
10 ____ Memorial Hall: Venue for plays and musical performances in Kodandarampura (8)
11 Bird associated with cowardice (7)
13 Authorization (3-2)
15 Serious stage play (5)
17 Tabla maestro Zakir ____ (7)
20 Joyful (8)
21 Flops (4)
22 Fail to follow suit (6)
23 Organic aromatic solvent (6)

DOWN

1 Turn white (6)
2 God of love (4)
3 Made laws (7)
4 Inuit house (5)
5 Totes or holdalls (8)
6 Excludes or prohibits the entry (6)
12 Merges (8)
14 Underlying theme (7)
16 Made active or excited (6)
18 To apprentice (6)
19 Trimmed by cutting away (5)
21 A herb (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS O

WVEZA TALAZ CVV VDF, CVV IXPMW, CVV IJDF, CV BJPM EB X HVVM XTF ZAXF CV X PKJDF.

Linemaro

I think after you said you like my name, you should hear my number too

Mindchow

You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop

Joke of the day

The Norwegian language has been described as German spoken underwater

Loop

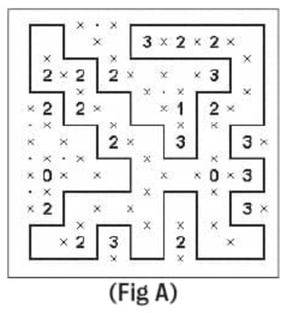
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

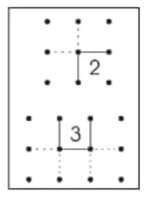
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

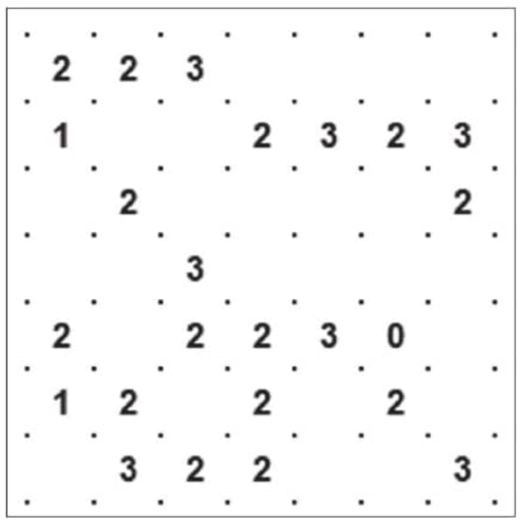
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



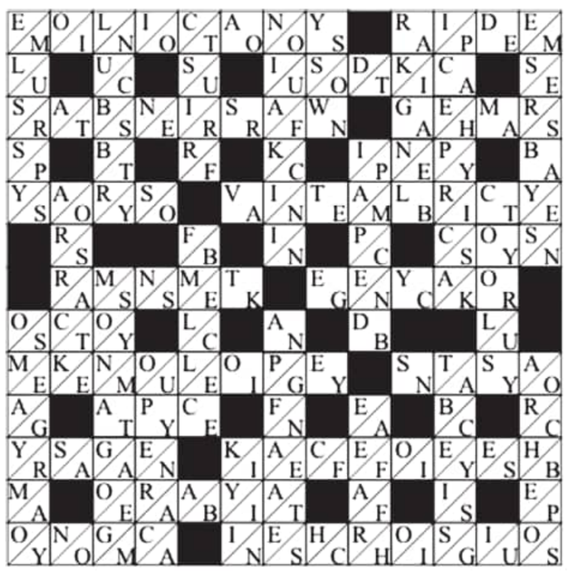
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9 F				

ACROSS

1 Drats; 6 Later; 7 Marie; 8 I bade; 9 Defix

DOWN

1 Farad; 2 Bail I; 3 Mixer; 4 Rated; 5 Ed set

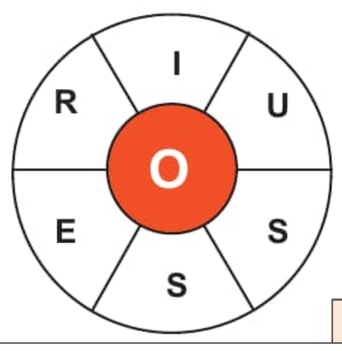
Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the bottom grid?

4	15	6
7	27	11

6	33	16
3	12	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			8		2			
6								5
	2	1		4		8	6	
	4	7	6		9	3	5	
		5				2		
	6	8	2		4	9	1	
	5	9		8		7	3	
4								1
			1		3			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

4 6 8 9

Medium = 12

1 7 9 9

Hard = 3

3 5 6 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Patch is missing. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Bat is longer. 4. Window is different. 5. Bush is different. 6. Tree trunk is different.

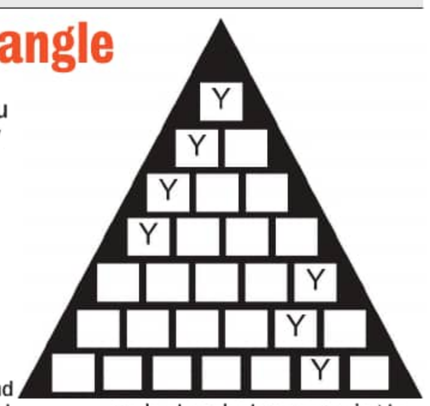
Riddler

Can you figure out these two commonly used phrases that have been expressed in a wordy way?

1. To slay a brace of avian creatures with just a single petrous conglomeration.
2. Like sending dense shelly concretions through the air to fall in front of stout-bodied, artiodactyl creatures.

Alpha triangle

1 Youth leader!
2 Old fashioned you
3 Affirmative reply
4 Desires
5 Snoopy, prying
6 Emissaries
7 Brings, carries

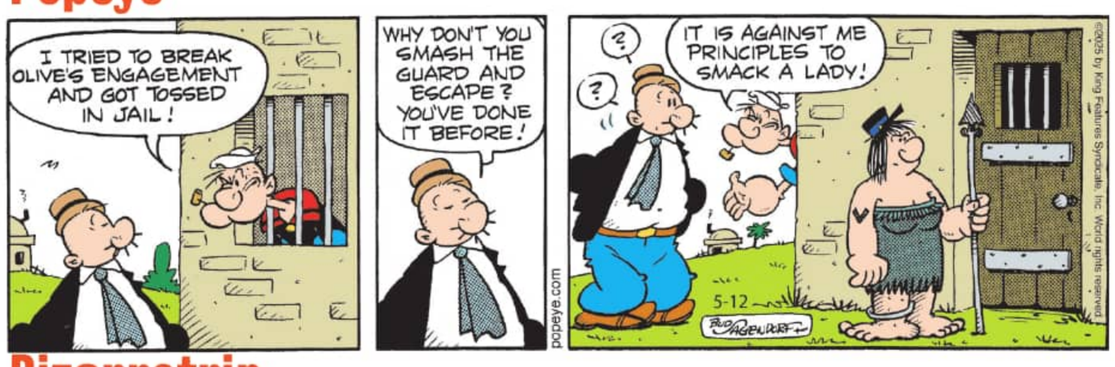


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

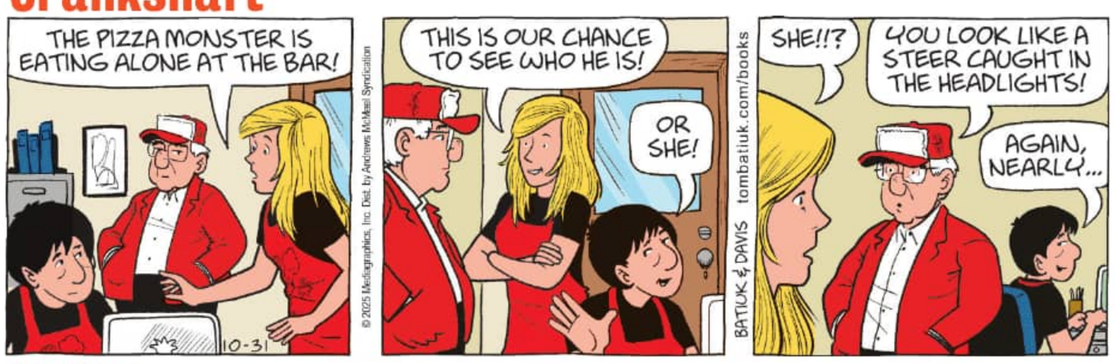


Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

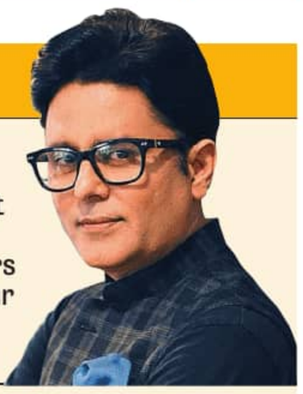
Crankshaft



Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Professional magnetism is your greatest asset this year. Career advancement follows a period of intense focus and dedication. In romance, expect a year of profound emotional connection and loyalty. Home life is lively, filled with visitors and celebration. Travel to historic sites provides deep inspiration. Manage your finances with an eye on the future to ensure lasting prosperity.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
A project you've been working on finally reaches a successful conclusion today. Take a moment to celebrate your hard work and enjoy the sense of accomplishment that comes with it.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your practical nature helps you solve a complex problem at work today. Colleagues will look to you for guidance, and your leadership will be greatly appreciated by everyone in your team.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
New ideas are flowing freely today, so make sure to write them down. These sparks of inspiration could lead to exciting future projects that will bring you both joy and courage.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Emotional clarity arrives today, helping you understand your feelings more deeply. Use this insight to strengthen your personal relationships and move forward with a much lighter and happier heart.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your confidence is at an all-time high today, making you feel unstoppable. Use this energy to pursue your most ambitious goals, as the universe is fully supporting your every move.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Helping others brings you a deep sense of purpose today. Whether through a small favour or a larger act of kindness, your generosity will make a positive impact on everyone.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Balance is easily achieved today as you manage your work and personal life with grace. This harmony allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds without feeling any stress.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your focus is sharp today, allowing you to uncover valuable information. Use this knowledge to your advantage in professional settings, and you will see your efforts yield very great results.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Travel or planning a future trip brings you a lot of excitement today. Exploring new horizons, even if only in your mind, will refresh your spirit and broaden your perspective.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Financial stability is a key theme today. By sticking to your budget and making smart choices, you are building a secure future that will allow you to flourish and grow.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your unique perspective is your greatest strength today. Share your innovative thoughts with others, and you will find that your ideas are met with enthusiasm and very genuine, widespread interest.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Deep connections are formed today when you share your true self with others. Vulnerability leads to stronger bonds and a sense of belonging that will nourish your soul and spirit.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= [11/8 ÷ (11/6) ÷ (5/3)]
= [11/8 ÷ (11/6) ÷ (3/5)]
= [11/8 ÷ (33 ÷ 30)]
= [11/8 x (30 ÷ 33)]
= [1/4 x (15/3)]
5/4 = 1.25

BULL'S EYE
rose, rouse, SERIOUS, sore, sour, souse

FAST FIVE

D	A	R	T	S
A	L	E	R	T
R	I	M	A	E
A	B	I	D	E
F	I	X	E	D

QUOTE UNCODE
You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

STRIKE OUT

M	O	N	O	T	O	N	Y	■	R	I	D	E
S	■	U	■	I	O	D	I	C	■	S	■	S
S	A	B	E	R	S	A	W	■	G	E	M	S
S	■	B	■	F	■	C	■	P	E	P	■	A
Y	O	Y	O	■	V	I	T	A	L	I	T	Y
■	R	■	B	■	N	■	C	■	■	C	O	S
A	S	S	E	T	■	G	E	C	K	O	■	■
S	T	Y	■	L	■	A	■	D	■	■	L	■
M	E	N	O	L	O	G	Y	■	N	A	S	A
A	■	A	P	E	■	N	■	A	■	B	■	C
R	A	G	E	■	K	A	F	F	I	Y	E	H
M	■	O	R	B	I	T	■	A	■	S	■	E
Y	O	G	A	■	N	E	C	R	O	S	I	S

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Kill two birds with one stone. &
2. Casting pearls before swine.

RIDDLER
5. Working in rows, multiply the average of the left and right hand numbers by three to give the middle number.

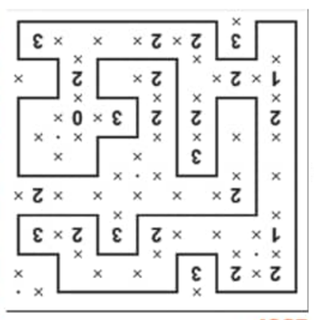
SUDOKU

5	9	4	8	6	2	1	7	3
6	8	3	9	7	1	4	2	5
7	2	1	3	4	5	8	6	9
2	4	7	6	1	9	3	5	8
9	1	5	7	3	8	2	4	6
3	6	8	2	5	4	9	1	7
1	5	9	4	8	6	7	3	2
4	3	2	5	9	7	6	8	1
8	7	6	1	2	3	5	9	4

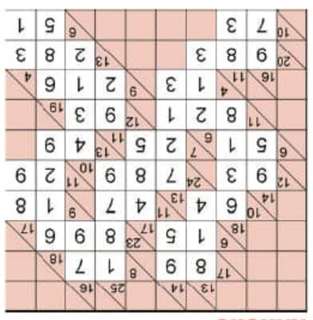
ALPHA TRIANGLE
Y, Ye, Yes, Yens, Nosey, Envoys, Conveys.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 9 - 8 - 4 = 3
Medium
9 + 9 + 1 - 7 = 12
Hard
7 - 3 + 5 - 6 = 3

LOOP



KAKURO



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Historic saga— 'Lahore 1947': Sunny Deol and Aamir Khan starrer to release on Independence Day 2026 weekend

Budget snag stalls 'Krrish 4'

Fans of India's favorite superhero will have to wait a little longer, as 'Krrish 4' has officially hit a significant financial roadblock. The highly anticipated fourth installment is facing a major production delay, not due to creative issues or script changes, but because of a substantial budget disagreement between Hrithik Roshan and producer Aditya Chopra.

According to Sacnilk, while the film was slated to begin production in early 2026, that timeline now seems impossible. Hrithik, who is set to make his directorial debut with this film, is reportedly pushing for a massive Rs 500 crore budget to ensure the action, VFX, and overall scale match international superhero standards.

However, Aditya Chopra (YRF) is reportedly hesitant to greenlight such a high figure, preferring to cap the budget at Rs 350 crore to ensure the project remains commercially viable. Because neither side has reached a compromise, the project has been put on the "back burner," and Hrithik is now reportedly considering other studios or reworking the script to find a middle ground.

Due to the current lack of a mutual understanding between the two, all filming schedules have been suspended indefinitely. The production has been pushed back once again, leaving the project without any confirmed start dates for the foreseeable future.

—ETimes

RELIVING HER 'DEVDAS' JOURNEY

Madhuri Dixit reflects on her experience of working with Sanjay Leela Bhansali on 'Devdas'

Madhuri Dixit recently revisited her experience of working with filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali on the 2002 classic 'Devdas'. Known for its opulent sets and emotional intensity, the film continues to be regarded as a landmark in Hindi cinema. For Dixit, the collaboration was not just about performance but about being part of a larger artistic vision. She described Bhansali's approach to cinema as deeply lyrical. According to her, every element of the film carried a sense of rhythm and beauty.

Filmmaking as a form of poetry

Talking to Moneycontrol, Madhuri shared that Bhansali treats cinema like poetry, extending beyond what appears on screen. From staging scenes to guiding performances, his process itself was filled with elegance. She admired how he infused meaning into even the smallest moments during the shoot. This sensitivity, she believes, is what elevated 'Devdas' into an unforgettable cinematic experience. The director's passion for detail left a lasting impression on her.

Bringing Chandramukhi to life

Talking about her portrayal of Chandramukhi, Madhuri highlighted the emotional depth of the character. She said, "I thoroughly enjoyed working with Bhansali Ji. Chandramukhi was such an extremely important character in the film. Not just the dance moves but every scene in the film feels like poetry." For her, Chandramukhi was more than a courtesan; she was a woman driven by intense love and quiet dignity. The role allowed Madhuri to explore both vulnerability and strength.

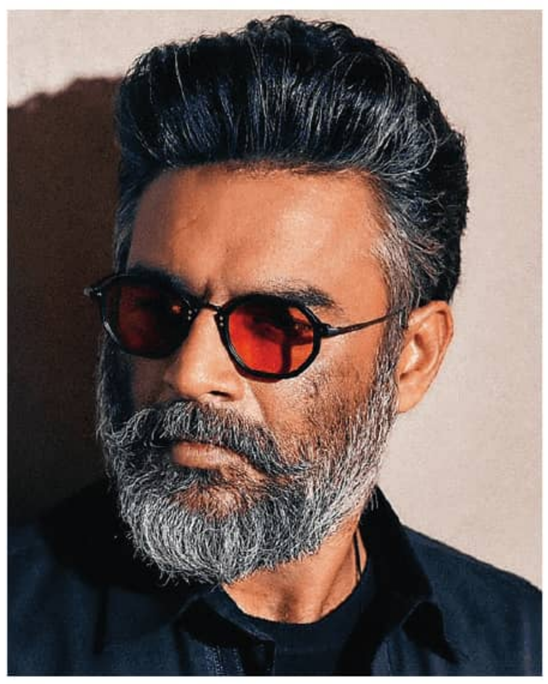
—ETimes

Madhavan channels Keanu's wisdom

Dhurandhar' actor R Madhavan often shares helpful and encouraging content on his Instagram handle, which he finds via his time on social media. Recently, the actor shared what he learned from the Hollywood star Keanu Reeves, that not every fight is worth one's time or energy, with a great example.

On his Instagram story, R Madhavan shared a quote by Hollywood actor Keanu Reeves. The quote said, "I'm at that stage in life where I stay out of discussions. Even if you say 1+1=5, you're right, have fun." The '3 Idiots' actor clearly agreed with this thought as it talks about choosing peace over arguments.

—ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Comeback after two decades

Sangita Madhavan, known for acting in Kannada movies Shanti Kranti, Yaare Nee Cheluve, and Yaare Nee Abhimani, is set to make a comeback after a gap of over 25 years. Madhavan has joined the team of a yet to be titled Kannada movie.

"I am very happy and excited to be part of the team. When I spoke with them, I found that they are a

vibrant production team. Later, I met the director. He is an energetic guy. He narrated the script to me. The script was very interesting. The narration of the script gave me the feeling that I have to be part of this team," said Madhavan.

Kiran Vishwanath makes his debut as an independent director with this movie. Prior to this, Vishwanath has worked as a co-director for Kannada movies Ranna and Victory. The movie also features Priyanka Achar, renowned as winner of Zee Kannada reality show Mahanati, who is assigned to play the female lead.

The team has a plan to introduce the protagonist of the movie shortly. The movie is bankrolled under the Gowri Arts banner.

On the banks of Ganga

Director AP Arjun, who is known for encouraging newcomers and for handling the megaphone for big-budget movies like Addhuri, Mr Airavata, Kiss, and Martin, wrote the script, screenplay and lyrics for forthcoming Kannada movie Lakshmiputra. Arjun has assigned Vijay Swamy to direct the movie. The film's climax unfolds across Kashi, Varanasi, Manikarnika Ghat, and the banks of the Ganga, where shooting took place over three days.

"I have to thank the coordinators of Kashi for ensuring the shooting without any hurdles. The movie is about bonding between a mother and his son. Tara played the mother while Chikkanna

played the son," said AP Arjun.

The team unveiled the first look of the movie recently, which quickly became popular among moviegoers. If all goes well, the movie is set to arrive in theatres in May or June.

The movie is bankrolled under the AP Arjun banner by Annapoorna, AP Arjun's wife, in association with Ravi Kiran Gowda.